



PROCEEDINGS

Environmental/Conservation Education Summit
held August 11, 2006
at the Springfield Regional Offices
of the Missouri Department of Conservation

Attending (full organization profiles are included in the EE/CE Directory)

Name	Organization
Doug Neidigh	Springfield-Greene County Health Dept.
Michelle Garand	Community Partnership of the Ozarks
Roy Fischer	Community Partnership of the Ozarks
Stefanie McCall-Hickey	Girl Scouts of Dogwood Trails
Carol Chilton	Girl Scouts of Dogwood Trails
Linda DuBrul	Girl Scouts
Tammy Burnett	Springfield-Greene County Health Dept.
Holly Neill	James River Basin Partnership
Melissa Bettles	James River Basin Partnership
Jay Barber	Mo. Dept. Conservation and Springfield Plateau Missouri Master Naturalists
Joe Pitts	Mo. Dept. Natural Resources
Victoria Lovejoy	Mo. Dept. Natural Resources
Cynthia Davies	Mo. Dept. Natural Resources
Janice Greene	Missouri State University
Celeste Prussia	Missouri State University
Shae Johnson	Greenwood Lab School - Mo. State University
Elizabeth Aull	Nestle Purina PetCare Company
Gopala Borchelt	Table Rock Water Quality, Inc.
Mike Cromrey	Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
Loring Bullard	Watershed Committee of the Ozarks
Misty Mitchell	Wonders of Wildlife
Loren Kelly	National Resource Conservation Service
Melvin Johnson	Springfield-Greene County Park Board
Kevin Barnes	Greene County
Cara Shaefer	City Utilities of Springfield

T. J. Conyers	City Utilities of Springfield
Fawn Warner	Discovery Center of Springfield
Wayne Dietrich	University of Missouri Extension
Robert Hamilton	Solid Waste Management District "O"
Terry Whaley	Ozark Greenways, Inc.
Gaylord Moore	University of Missouri Extension
Dorothy Thurman	Greater Ozarks Audubon Society
Karen McKinnis	Springfield-Greene County Health Dept.
J. D. Slaughter	Springfield-Greene County Health Dept.
Linda Chorce	Springfield Conservation Nature Center
Barbara Lucks	Choose Environmental Excellence; Show-Me Yards & Neighborhoods; City of Springfield Public Works Dept. --Storm Water Management and Solid Waste Management, Facilitator
Kimberly White	City of Springfield Solid Waste Management Division, Staff Assistant

Barbara Lucks gave brief reports for those who were unable to attend: Todd Wagner and Carrie Lamb, Springfield Public Works Storm Water Division; Howard Fisk, Boy Scouts; and Tim Smith, Greene County.

Wish List Brainstorming

Each attendee was asked to bring with them a "wish list" that reflected either a need or goal for their organization or something they thought might be of interest to the other Summit attendees. These were presented by the attendees as a part of their "update" report. All Wish List items are shown below.

Each attendee was given three votes and asked to cast those three votes for items shown on the wish list. The number of votes received for each item is shown in parentheses. The three items with the highest number of votes were chosen for further discussion.

- Increase awareness of energy conservation/energy management programs currently available (3 votes)
- Include City Utilities in discussions on water and energy conservation. For example, upcoming building projects, etc. (no votes)
- Community-wide effort to encourage individual action/responsibility (i.e. - non-point sources) (12 votes)
- Access to household hazardous waste disposal in all five counties on a continuous basis (1 vote)
- Adult training and public education for civic organizations (1 vote)
- The support of water quality permits to protect the integrity of streams rather than just minimal regulations. Staff is needed to research the stream. For example, a biological assessment. (4 votes)
- Watershed group/stream teams on every stream to encourage local involvement (no votes)
- Support for testing of emerging technology. For example, various on-site wastewater treatment techniques (no votes)
- Hands-on environmental activities within a 45-minute drive (no votes)
- Staff person for weekend environmental activities at (Girl Scout) camp (no votes)
- An environmental conference for leaders and older girls, middle school through high school (5 votes)
- County-wide water festival throughout the James River Basin (7 votes)
- Ongoing EE/CE that targets at least one, if not more, grade level(s) in the southwest region (no votes)
- Increased affordable recycling programs (1 vote)
- Increased hands-on EE/CE outdoor education for adults. Youth "get it." Adults need help. (4 votes)
- Increased partnership opportunities (no votes)
- Social marketing to bring about change (1 vote)
- Opportunities for use of the Watershed Center (no votes)
- Transportation for funding for field trips (2 votes)
- Education/outreach for contagious/communicable diseases among high school students (no votes)
- Learning outdoor skills (LOS) (no votes)
- Reach more upper elementary (4th and 5th grade) students (no votes)
- Tie in hunting, fishing, trapping with green movement (7 votes)

- Area naturalist to serve area teachers and non-formal educators (no votes)
- Minority outreach efforts (1 vote)
- Counties become as proactive as Greene County on erosion control and water quality protection (no votes)
- A home for Greater Ozarks Audubon Society (no votes)
- Foster programs that encourage individual responsibility and also "show how" (no votes)
- Make EE/CE a more prominent part of K-12 State standards (3 votes)
- Provide air quality information to schools (all ages) and public (no votes)
- Develop strong partnerships for a sustainable air quality education program (no votes)
- Expand interest on mass and alternative transportation (14 votes)
- Expand the No Mo Trash program to address litter/illegal dumping, establish local contact/advocate (2 votes)
- Get people outside (12 votes)
- Develop EE/CE experiences in the urban areas. Address transportation issues, etc. (no votes)
- Reach every county home with CE/EE measures they can do (no votes)
- Mosquito, tick-borne diseases education at grades 3-5 (no votes)
- Develop pleasant community site to decrease obesity (no votes)
- Develop uniform color recycling system (no votes)
- Bring EE/CE to neighborhood level (no votes)
- Develop adult education which differentiates between disposal/trash/recycling (8 votes)
- Have trained technicians at Recycling Centers to assist people and to cut down on contamination (1 vote)
- Have a door-to-door education program for specific areas each year and partner with other groups that are reaching these particular areas. For example, YMCA "neighborhood parties" (1 vote)
- More public service messages on broadcast media (no votes)
- Ban outdoor burning (no votes)
- Work with multi-media promotions to garner ongoing support for EE/CE (3 votes)
- Include industry representatives in next year's summit to meet their needs (1 vote) (*Note: Several businesses/industries and the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce were invited to send representatives this year.*)

- Recreate Southwest Missouri dynamics all over the state, have an advisory group here to help establish similar groups state-wide (no votes)
- Shuttle transportation to serve the destination points/expanded bus route similar to Access Express (5 votes)
- Piggyback with other promotions, such as a C. U. insert for urban areas (1 vote)
- Recycling in all schools (1 vote)
- Outdoor classrooms for schools to save field trip costs, energy, etc. (1 vote)
- Focus on large event/church, etc., recycling (1 vote)

Following the vote, the group broke into three smaller work groups to focus on the three issues receiving the highest number of votes.

1. A community-wide effort to encourage personal responsibility.

- Education campaign - individual neighborhoods. Getting folks to see how they can do things to save money - "Real world examples."
- *News-Leader* profile a family - looking at a family making changes over a period of 6-12 months.
- Spotlight people - celebrity - community person to discuss items
- Utilize the News-Leader Home Section
- Lead by example
- Incentives:
 - Must be measurable
 - Area schools have competition
 - Patch program with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
 - Character Ed type of activity - profiling something each month

2. Get people outdoors.

(To encourage events that are simple and neighborhood/community based to promote nature play, imagination, and health) Ideas:

- Inviting, safe area
- Plan for special events that are outside
- Family events
- Local/community based

- One-day events, 1-3 hours
- Short programs targeting smaller but numerous encounters, no registration
- Encourage public health - find the vacant lot, let the kids free play, find supervision for those sites - fight obesity
- Provide incentives
- Health Department - Off spray and wipes - can get those from them.
- Master Naturalists - they could supervise and "loosely" structure these events.
- Use school grounds - community gatherings
- National night out - August - All outdoor events would include: briefs on outdoor safety (mosquitoes, ticks, etc.)
- "Play on the Trail" stations on Greenways
- Involve neighborhood church groups, community association, scouting groups, schools,
- Organize a family float trip
- Loan camping equipment programs, canoes, bicycles
- Arrange meetings outside for various organizations

Barriers:

- Lack of time ("outdoors " needs to be made a priority)
- Safety - (perceived barrier)
- Information on access to Greenspace lacking
- Society changes
- Fear of lawsuits/liability issues

3. Expand interest in mass/alternative transportation.

- Expand CU bus service
- Safe ways to bike or walk - combined maps of bike trails
- Park and ride for commuters
- Companies promote carpooling/telecommuting
- Education/public outreach to teach people practicality/support reasons
- CU do study re: expanding routes/schedule
- Avoid duplication between OATS, MSU, Access, Medi-Transit, CU, Prime

- Include OTO - Regional Economical Development - Regional Metro Planning
- Transit similar to Firefall for Ozark Empire Fair, Nature Center events, other events around town
- Mass transit from Nixa, Marshfield, Bolivar, Republic, Willard for workers in Springfield

Accomplishments/progress during the last year based on recommendations from the 2005 Summit

During the Self-Introduction and Brainstorming Sessions, attendees also reported on these activities which related to the discussions at the 2005 Summit.

Promote recycling at community and sports events, at schools and colleges (18 votes)

Nature Center - The Springfield Conservation Nature Center is now accepting monofilament line and school recycling. The Discovery Center is now promoting recycling in their new green building as a result of a Solid Waste District "O" grant. Project Re-Directory (Project Pet Litter - phone book recycling) has been increased through Nestle Purina Pet Care Company working with the Girl Scouts. Project Re-Directory (Phone book recycling). Waste District O, Greene County, the City of Springfield Solid Waste Management Division and the Springfield Cardinals are working on a program for recycling at the Cardinals events. The Commercial Streets Merchants Association have as one of their goals recycling at the businesses and events at Commercial Street. A local recycler has indicated interest in providing bins and services for recycling at public festivals and events.

Create more wildlife conservation areas/green spaces in homes, new developments, schools (12 votes).

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society continues their work on South Creek. The Watershed Committees' new watershed center at Valley Water Mill includes green spaces and a demonstration area. NRCS has now completed wildlife habitat management on 55,275 acres under their program. Missouri Department of Conservation's "private lands" program also focuses on wildlife conservation areas and habitats preservation and restoration. Flood plain acquisition by both the City and the County continues. School/Parks programs continue with the Springfield-Greene County Park Department and Springfield R-12 schools. Farmland preservation and historical preservation efforts as a result of the Ozark Greenways Land Trust have resulted in two parcels of land being set aside near Wilson's Creek Battlefield. The City of Springfield's Storm Water Division new design standards include more green spaces for neighborhoods and schools. Greene County's conservation development efforts continue.

Improve area water quality through riparian restoration of the Little Sac and James Rivers' increase Stream Team activity, ensure proper septic and wastewater equipment and usage (11 votes)

The Water Shed Center at Valley Water Mill will include demonstration sites. The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks is also involved in programs addressing failing onsite wastewater systems and Greene County will have onsite waste water system training for professionals at the Watershed Center. During the recent Parks Tax initiative, funding for significant storm water projects and education is included. City of Springfield continues their public education efforts including items such as C.U. bill stuffers. Several partners, such as the City of Springfield Public Works, James River Basin Partnership, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, and others are involved in storm drain stenciling and marking projects.

Increase innovative environmental/conservation education, including a passport for all the area initiatives, programs for underprivileged and innovative schools, annual Envirothon and Scout Odyssey (9 votes)

Several groups are continuing or increasing their environmental/education efforts. These include Show Me Yards and Neighborhoods, working with the City of Springfield, Greene County, Missouri University Extension through the Master Gardner Program; James River Basin Partnership; Watershed Committee of the Ozarks; Springfield Plateau Missouri Master Naturalists and others. The Greater Ozarks Audubon Society now has an outreach program. The Watershed Committee of the Ozarks will be increasing their efforts through the Watershed Center at Valley Water Mill. The Springfield Conservation Nature Center and Wonders of Wildlife also continue their education program.

Raise awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation, including protection of local endangered species, increased use of conservation programs provided by the Zoo, Audubon, Doling Park, and Conservation Department; development/use of outdoor classroom curriculum (6 votes)

Audubon Adventures programs are targeted for this area. The Springfield-Greene County Park Board Outdoor Initiatives program supports these efforts, as well as the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks Watershed Center.

Increase watershed education in schools, including 4th Grade Water Festival, 4th grade hands-on education and community environmental problem solving (6 votes)

The Springfield Conservation Nature Center had a Lewis and Clark component for 4th graders which included watershed education. James River Basin Partnership, and Missouri University Extension have also done 4th grade water festivals for the counties of Taney, Christian, and McDonald.

More litter abatement programs for roads, streets, rivers, and streams (5 votes)

City of Springfield Public Works Adopt-A-Stream program focuses on litter clean up in area streams. Greater Ozarks Audubon Society is one of the first organizations to set an example for such adoption programs in their work along South Creek. The Adopt-A-Stream program is now in Year 2. In Year 1, 245 bags of trash were collected.

Develop a central clearinghouse (e.g. website, calendar) for all area EE/CE programs to consolidate info (5 votes)

www.OzarksEnvironment.com is up and running as a result of last years discussions as well as a Directory of EE/CE providers has also been published and is available on line as well as in hard copy. Both will be updated following the 2006 Summit.

Develop a way to coordinate volunteers (Master Naturalist, Health Department Community Heroes, Americorps, CERT) for environmental and conservation activities (5 votes)

OzarkEnvironment.com has a space for volunteer opportunities as well as other "wishlist."

Get "top-down" support from R-12 school district for system-wide recycling program and EE/CE education.

Air Quality Education

Springfield Greene County Health Department will be launching a new comprehensive air quality education program "It all adds up to Clean Air."

Land Purchase for Future Farmers of America

It was suggested that FFA work with the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department particularly now that parks has a new ecline center and is interested in heritage agriculture. This would appear to be a good match.